

**Amendments to the Claims:**

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An electric discharge lamp comprising:  
a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel  $[(1)]$ ;  
a first and a second current conductor  $[(2,3)]$  entering the discharge vessel  $[(1)]$  and each supporting an electrode  $[(4,5)]$  in the discharge vessel  $[(1)]$ ;  
an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the discharge vessel  $[(1)]$ ;  
at least the first current conductor  $[(2)]$  within the discharge vessel  $[(1)]$   
being halide-resistant,  $[(characterized in that)]$   
wherein the first current conductor  $[(2)]$  at least substantially  
 $[(comprises)]$  includes a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion,  
wherein said material of the first current conductor  $[(2)]$  is chosen from the group of  $Y_pSi_3X_q$ , wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C with  $4 \leq p \leq 5$  and  $0 < q \leq 1$ , and  
wherein said material of the first current conductor is co-sintered to the ceramic material of the discharge vessel at a manufacturing temperature of the lamp.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The electric discharge lamp [[according to]] of claim 1, wherein also the second current conductor [[ (3) ]] at least substantially [[comprises]] includes a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.
5. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The electric discharge lamp [[according to]] of claim 4, wherein said material of the second current conductor [[ (3) ]] is of the composition  $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$  with  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$  and  $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$ .
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The electric discharge lamp [[according to]] of claim 1,  
wherein the first and the second current conductor [[ (2,3) ]] each extend from a sealing compound [[ (6) ]], which seals the discharge vessel [[ (1) ]] around the current conductors [[ (2,3) ]] in a gastight manner, to the exterior of the discharge vessel [[ (1) ]],  
and  
wherein the discharge vessel [[ (1) ]] has projecting plugs [[ (11,12) ]] in each of which a respective current conductor [[ (2,3) ]] is enclosed and which plugs [[ (11,12) ]] each have a free end [[ (11,12) ]] where the discharge vessel [[ (1) ]] is sealed by the sealing compound [[ (6) ]].
8. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The electric discharge lamp [[according to]] of claim 4, wherein said material of the second current conductor [[ (3) ]] is chosen from the group of  $\text{Y}_p\text{Si}_3\text{X}_q$ , wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C with  $4 \leq p \leq 5$  and  $0 < q \leq 1$ .
9. (Currently Amended) [[An]] The electric discharge lamp [[according to]] of claim 1, wherein the first current conductor [[ (2) ]] further [[comprises]] includes a

material with a coefficient of thermal expansion corresponding to a coefficient of thermal expansion of the discharge vessel [(1)].

10. (Currently Amended) An electric discharge lamp comprising:  
a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel [(1)];  
a first and a second current conductor [(2,3)] entering the discharge vessel [(1)] and each supporting an electrode [(4,5)] in the discharge vessel [(1)];  
an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the discharge vessel [(1)];

at least the first current conductor [(2)] within the discharge vessel [(1)]  
being halide-resistant, [characterized in that]

wherein the first current conductor [(2)] at least substantially  
[comprises] includes a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion, and

wherein said material of the first current conductor [(2)] is of the composition  $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$  with  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$  and  $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$ .

11. (Currently Amended) [An] The electric discharge lamp [according to] of claim 10, wherein the first current conductor [(2)] further [comprises] includes a material with a coefficient of thermal expansion corresponding to a coefficient of thermal expansion of the discharge vessel [(1)].

12. (Currently Amended) [An] The electric discharge lamp [according to] of claim 10, wherein also the second current conductor [(3)] at least substantially [comprises] includes a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion.

13. (Currently Amended) [An] The electric discharge lamp [according to] of claim 12, wherein said material of the second current conductor [(3)] is of the composition  $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$  with  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$  and  $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$ .

14. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]] The~~ electric discharge lamp ~~[[according to]] of~~ claim 10, wherein said material is co-sintered to the ceramic material of the discharge vessel ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ at a manufacturing temperature of the lamp.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]] The~~ electric discharge lamp ~~[[according to]] of~~ claim 10,

wherein the first and the second current conductor ~~[[ (2,3) ]]~~ each extend from a sealing compound ~~[[ (6) ]]~~, which seals the discharge vessel ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ around the current conductors ~~[[ (2,3) ]]~~ in a gastight manner, to the exterior of the discharge vessel ~~[[ (1) ]]~~, and

wherein the discharge vessel ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ has projecting plugs ~~[[ (11,12) ]]~~ in each of which a respective current conductor ~~[[ (2,3) ]]~~ is enclosed and which plugs ~~[[ (11,12) ]]~~ each have a free end ~~[[ (11,12) ]]~~ where the discharge vessel ~~[[ (1) ]]~~ is sealed by the sealing compound ~~[[ (6) ]]~~.

16. (New) An electric discharge lamp comprising:  
a light-transmissive ceramic discharge vessel;  
a first and a second current conductor entering the discharge vessel and each supporting an electrode in the discharge vessel;  
an ionizable filling comprising a rare gas and a metal halide in the discharge vessel;  
at least the first current conductor within the discharge vessel being halide-resistant,

wherein the first current conductor and the second current conductor at least substantially include a material with an at least substantially isotropic coefficient of thermal expansion,

wherein said material of the first current conductor is chosen from the group of  $Y_pSi_3X_q$ , wherein Y is chosen from Mo, W and Ta and X is B, Al, N or C with  $4 \leq p \leq 5$  and  $0 < q \leq 1$ , and

wherein said material of the second current conductor is of the composition  $\text{Mo}_6(\text{Si}_x, \text{Mo}_{1-x})_4(\text{C}_y, \text{Si}_{1-y})_6$  with  $0.10 \leq x \leq 0.55$  and  $0.15 \leq y \leq 0.40$ .

17. (New) The electric discharge lamp of claim 16, wherein the first current conductor further comprises a material with a coefficient of thermal expansion corresponding to a coefficient of thermal expansion of the discharge vessel.

18. (New) The electric discharge lamp of claim 16, wherein the first and the second current conductor each extend from a sealing compound, which seals the discharge vessel around the current conductors in a gastight manner, to the exterior of the discharge vessel, and wherein the discharge vessel has projecting plugs in each of which a respective current conductor is enclosed and which plugs each have a free end where the discharge vessel is sealed by the sealing compound.